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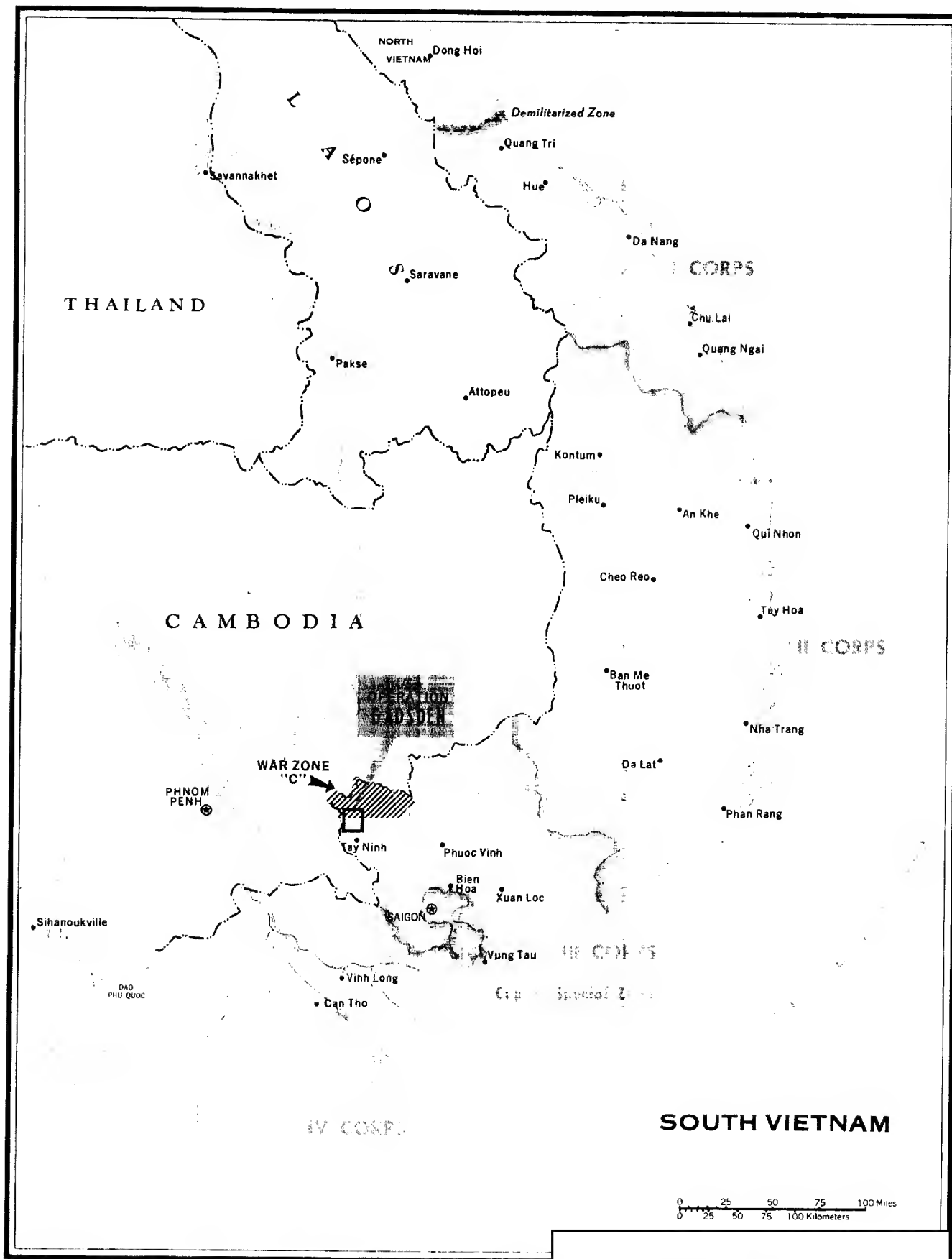
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Malta-UK: Negotiations



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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: The first ten hours of the Lunar New Year (Tet) truce which began on 7 February at 6:00 PM EST (7:00 AM, 8 February, Saigon time), have produced only scattered Communist-initiated incidents.

Heavy contact between US forces and Communist elements in the Communists' War Zone "C" occurred on 5-6 February during Operation GADSDEN. Since this operation began on 1 February, 96 Viet Cong have been reported killed, compared with US losses of 17 killed and 78 wounded. (Map)

North Vietnamese Developments: Soviet shipping to North Vietnam during January 1967 was slightly higher than the monthly average in 1966. The number of Soviet ships arriving or en route thus far in February indicates that the higher volume will continue into March.

North Vietnamese imports by sea in 1966 increased by about 34 percent, mainly as a result of stepped-up Soviet economic aid deliveries. Available data shows that 122 Soviet ships called at North Vietnamese ports last year, a rise of 54 percent over 1965. East European and Chinese Communist ship arrivals remained at about the 1965 level.

Free World shipping to North Vietnam declined in 1966. This decrease is attributed to self-imposed restrictions in response to US demarches and to North Vietnam's difficulties in getting its principal export commodities to ports. [REDACTED]

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NOTE

Malta-UK: London has proposed a resumption of bilateral talks with Malta in an effort to resolve the dispute over the reduction of British forces on the island. The British suggest that the talks cover ways of helping the Maltese economy over the difficulties caused by the cutback, but London also is willing to talk about re-phasing the reductions planned over a four-year period. The new British offer may be acceptable to the Maltese, who have threatened further harassment of British forces if London does not agree to negotiate.

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